

From: [Morgan, Jeanette](#)
Subject: FW: Pesticides & Toxic Substances Law News for August 13, 2013
Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2013 2:39:17 PM
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Pesticides & Toxic Substances Law News for August 13, 2013

Bloomberg **Daily Environment Report™** **BNA**

Agriculture

[Analysts Say Higher U.S. Farm Subsidies May Lead to Environmental Damage Abroad](#)

An increase in farm subsidies proposed in the House– and Senate-passed farm bills (H.R. 2642, S. 954) may make U.S. crops cheaper, forcing farmers in developing countries to use farming methods that harm the environment, policy analysts...

Toxic Substances

[New, Updated, Corrected Test Guidelines From OECD Address Bee Toxicity, Other Risks](#)

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has released online a new honeybee toxicity test, two other new guidelines, seven updated guidelines, and one corrected guideline for testing the physical characteristics of chemicals...



Inside EPA's **Risk Policy Report**, 8/13/13

<http://insideepa.com/Risk-Policy-Report/Risk-Policy-Report-08/13/2013/menu-id-130.html>

Greenwire

CHEMICALS:



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Hazardous material warning system lacks oversight

Published: Monday, August 12, 2013

A federal program meant to warn the public about hazardous chemicals lacks oversight in several states.

Private and public facilities are required to file Tier II reports under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. The reports provide an inventory of what hazardous chemicals are stored at their properties. But the reports are often inaccurate, sometimes misidentifying chemicals or failing to report them in the first place.

And in most cases, federal and local authorities aren't auditing the reports to check for problems.

U.S. EPA has no active system for examining reports. Instead, the agency looks into the reports only when it receives complaints or during checks for other regulations. Last year, this system resulted in EPA's reporting that at least 95 companies had failed to report the chemicals they had on site.

State and county officials are responsible for ensuring Tier II reports are accurate, EPA said in a statement.

But on the state level, only a few, such as Michigan, actually make the effort to look for errors. In Oregon, the state fire marshal reviews 22,000 reports and sometimes visits facilities.

"There's a huge problem with the Tier IIs, no doubt about it," said Mike Terry, a fire marshal in Gonzales, Texas, where an explosives company, Austin Powders, failed to report as much as 40,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate at its plant.

The issue has come to light in recent months because of the April explosion of a fertilizer plant in West, Texas. Federal officials say a Tier II report noted the presence of ammonium nitrate at the plant, but firefighters who survived the explosion said they never saw a report about the factory (Pell/McNeill/Gebrekidan, [Reuters](#), Aug. 10). -- JE

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